

Director's Message



The criminal justice community in the Commonwealth of Virginia has experienced a number of challenges over the past year. In 2007 the tragic events at Virginia Tech brought new urgency to the need to create safer campuses and schools. We also struggled to balance the privacy rights of individuals while providing for the public's safety, debated the role of state and local law enforcement in dealing with illegal immigration, worked to address concerns about disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system, and looked for ways to improve victim services, prisoner

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DCJS TODAY

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DCJS to Develop a Statewide Criminal Justice System Plan

The Code of Virginia (§9.1-102, paragraph 25) charges the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) with developing a comprehensive plan to strengthen law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice throughout the Commonwealth. This plan is also to be updated periodically.

DCJS began the process of developing the plan last July, with completion and publication projected for the Summer of 2008. The primary purposes of the plan are to:

- create a framework for short and long-range decision making,
- establish a foundation for more detailed analysis and planning, and
- promote system improvement.

The plan is designed to be realistically comprehensive and complementary of other affected agencies' strategic plans and operational responsibilities. Additionally, it will address traditional public safety issues, as well as issues in which public safety agencies interact with other government service providers such as education, mental health, and social services.

DCJS has developed an inclusive planning process in which focus groups were convened in each of eight regions of the Commonwealth. The focus groups consisted of a broad range of criminal justice administrators, practitioners and policy advisors, as well as representatives from service organizations that are impacted by criminal justice activities. These groups began the process of identifying critical criminal justice issues and defining strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that would affect efforts to

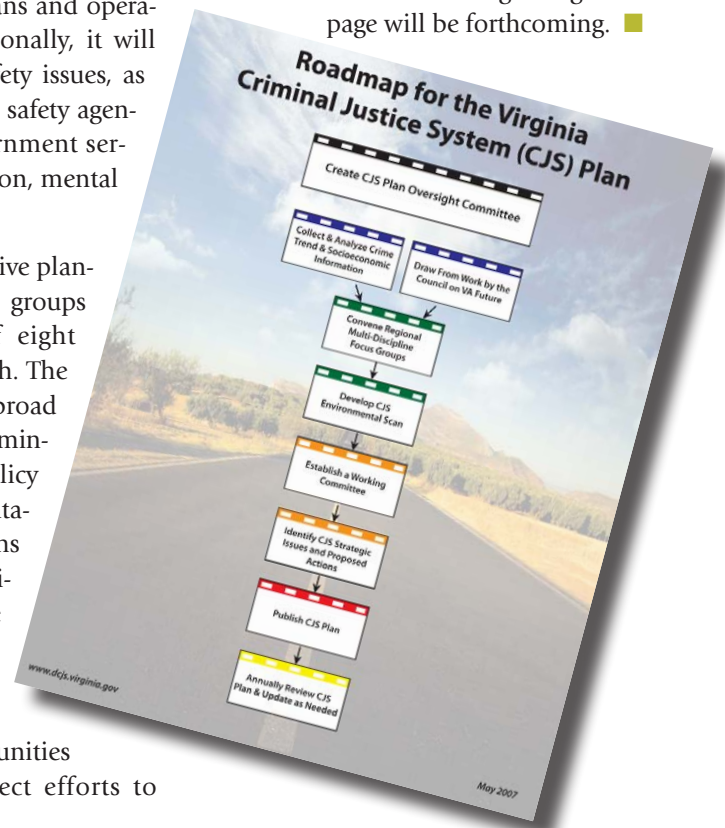
respond. Their work will form the basis of an environmental scan of the criminal justice system, which will be used by subsequent work groups to develop strategic priorities and initiatives. The entire planning process

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is being coordinated through an Oversight Committee that is composed of representatives from relevant criminal justice departments within the Public Safety Secretariat.

DCJS is currently developing a Criminal Justice System Plan webpage which will give detailed information regarding the development process and accomplishments to date.

More information regarding the webpage will be forthcoming. ■





Regional Crime Trends in Virginia — 2002–2006

What are the crime trends in different parts of Virginia, and how do the regional trends compare to the statewide trend?

As part of our work to develop a statewide Criminal Justice Plan, DCJS reviewed data on reported crimes and arrests for the state as a whole as well as for eight regions of Virginia (see map). The eight regions were defined by the Council on Virginia's Future (www.future.virginia.gov) based on criteria such as geographic proximity and economic and social connectedness.

Following is a summary of the crime trend information we developed. More detailed information is available at www.dcjs.virginia.gov/research.

Violent Crime

In general, the trend in rates of reported violent crimes (murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault) in Virginia has been downward in recent years.

The rate of violent crimes per 100,000 population declined statewide by 1.4% from 2005 to 2006 and was lower in four of the eight regions. From 2002 to 2006, Virginia's violent crime rate dropped by 2.4%, while five of the eight regions experienced declines during that period.

The Hampton Roads region had the highest rate of violent crime for each year from 2002 to 2006; the Northern region had the lowest rate.

Over the same five-year period, the West Central region showed the largest percentage increase in its violent crime rate, 40.3%, driven by increases in the numbers of robberies and aggravated assaults.

The Southside region had the largest five-year decrease, 20.6%.

Property Crime

Rates of property crime (burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft) also trended lower during the time period reviewed.

Statewide, the property crime rate decreased by 6.9% from 2005 to 2006; five of the eight regions experienced decreases.

For the five years from 2002 to 2006, the statewide property crime rate declined by 12.3%, with four of the regions examined showing declines.

As with violent crime, Hampton Roads had the highest property crime rate in each of the five years, although the rate did decline over the period. The Eastern region had the lowest rate in each year of the period.

The Central region's property crime rate was the second highest in each of the five years, but the region also experienced the

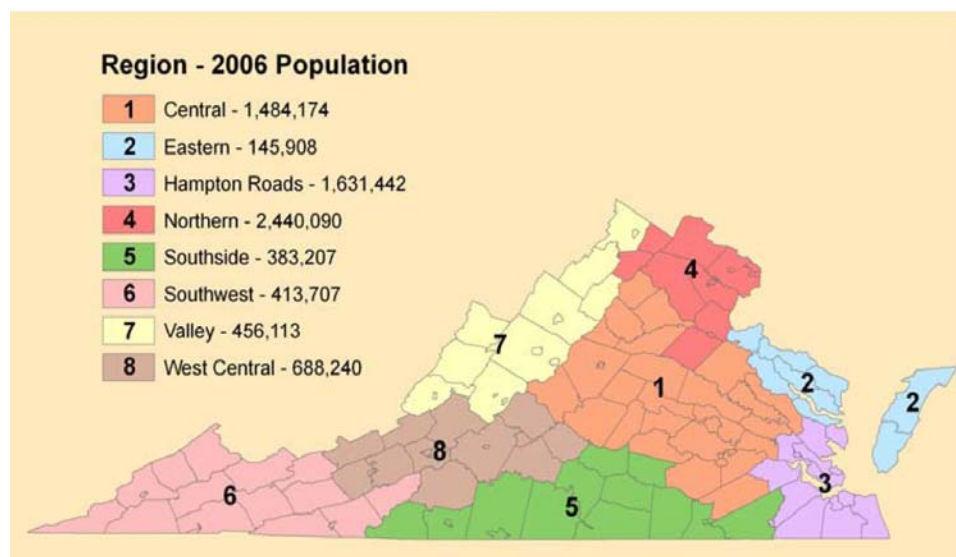
largest decrease (17.6%) over the period. In contrast, the West Central region experienced an increase of 27.9%.

Drug Arrests

The rate of arrests for drug/narcotics violations increased in all of the eight regions between 2002 and 2006, with the West Central region leading the way. That region reported a 95.1% increase, driven primarily by increases in arrests for crack cocaine and marijuana.

In the Southwest region, the drug arrest rate increased by 63.8% from 2002 to 2006. Increases in arrests for marijuana and amphetamine/methamphetamine were major contributors.

It is important to note that changes in drug arrest rates often reflect changes in the anti-drug strategies and resources of law enforcement and criminal justice system and do not necessarily indicate changes in the availability or prevalence of drugs. ■



Data Sources:

The Council on Virginia's Future, www.future.virginia.gov/index.php

Incident-Based Reporting System electronic crime incident data files from the Virginia Department of State Police, converted to Uniform Crime Reporting Summary format by DCJS Research Center

Population data from Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia



Culture of Preparedness

TRUE or FALSE?

- Suicide bombers are single males, without any family responsibility.
- Doppler radar will always allow for plenty of advance warning of an approaching tornado.
- In Virginia, hurricanes affect more communities in any given event than any other hazard.
- "Dumpster diving" is a cheap means to redecorate your game room.
- Rubber tires on a car will protect you from a lightning strike.
- In an emergency, water from an unknown source is safe to drink upon adding 1/8 teaspoon of hydrogen peroxide to each gallon of water.
- Immediately notify appropriate authorities by cell phone upon encountering a suspicious package.
- Four feet of rushing water is needed to carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles and pick-ups.

If you recognized each of the above statements as false, you've won half the battle. The other half involves strengthening our individual and corporate preparedness to increase the likelihood that we can survive an incident and care for our own basic needs in the immediate aftermath. Fostering such a Culture of Preparedness is one of the many goals of a new Department initiative, the Office of Homeland Security (OHS). Located within the Law Enforcement Services Section, the OHS is responsible for coordinating all aspects of homeland security planning, technical support, and federal funding for the Commonwealth's law enforcement community, focusing on terrorism prevention and response capabilities. ■

Governor's Commission on Sexual Violence

Governor Timothy M. Kaine established the Governor's Commission on Sexual Violence in October 2006, with Executive Order 38. The 38 member Commission was co-chaired by Secretary of Public Safety John W. Marshall and Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Marilyn Tavenner. The first meeting was held on November 30, 2006, and the final meeting was held on September 27, 2007. The full Commission met three times during the year and identified the following issues of concern.

- **Inconsistent responses across the system.** Law enforcement personnel, emergency response and health care providers, social service workers and prosecutors do not always respond to victims and perpetrators consistently.
- **No quality continuum of care.** The availability of services is very limited in some areas, especially in rural localities.

- **Insufficient public awareness.** The general public is reluctant to acknowledge and understand the issues surrounding sexual violence.
- **Inadequate reporting.** Many victims are reluctant to report their victimization for a variety of reasons. Other victims, such as children, do not always have an ability or avenue to report their victimization.
- **Cultural acceptance of violence.** Children, youth and adults are being exposed to more violent images through various channels. Some advertisers portray youth as sexual objects.
- **Inadequately trained personnel.** Some responders to victims of sexual violence have received little or no training in this area.

More detailed information is available at www.dcls.virginia.gov/victims. ■

Justice Assistance Grant Funds Available

DCJS is inviting grant applications for funding new projects through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). Grant guidelines and application instructions are available on our website, www.dcls.virginia.gov.

Grant applications will be considered for new projects in the following areas:

- 1) School and Campus Safety Projects;
- 2) School Resource Officers;
- 3) Crisis Intervention Team Pilot Projects;
- 4) Assessing the Impact of and Responding to the Mentally Ill in the Criminal/Juvenile Justice Systems;
- 5) Crime & Delinquency Prevention in Minority/Immigrant Communities;
- 6) Recruiting and Retention of Criminal Justice Professionals; and
- 7) Criminal Justice System Improvements.

The grant guidelines provide information about these program areas, as well as contact information for DCJS staff members who can provide assistance.

DCJS receives JAG funds annually from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, and uses them to provide grants to localities, state agencies and other organizations.

The grant guidelines include limitations and requirements attached to the funds. For example, there is a matching funds requirement that JAG funds may be used to pay no more than 75% of the cost of a project, with the remaining funds to be provided by the applicant, in cash, from non-federal sources.

Applications are due to DCJS on **February 29, 2008**. Successful applicants will receive funding for 12 months beginning July 1, 2008. Funding beyond the initial grant period will depend on availability of JAG funds, project performance and compliance with reporting requirements. ■



SPOTLIGHT: The Certified Crime Prevention Community Program

In 1998, Governor Gilmore created the New Partnership Commission for Community Safety, to advise him on new initiatives to “promote community safety, particularly youth and family safety.” The Commission asked DCJS to recommend programs that foster the development of community safety initiatives at the local level. DCJS proposed, and the Commission approved, the Certified Crime Prevention Community Program. The goal of the program is to publicly recognize and certify localities that have demonstrated a commitment to safety by meeting twelve required “core” elements and at least seven “optional” elements as part of a comprehensive community safety/crime prevention effort.

One of the first of its kind in the nation, the program encourages localities to develop and implement collaborative community safety plans within a flexible framework. Furthermore, it provides an ongoing process by which communities

can reassess and update their plans to address emerging community safety issues. The certification not only gives the localities preference in the state criminal justice grant application process but also has been used for economic development and in the application for the All American Cities designation.

One of the first of its kind in the nation, the program encourages localities to develop and implement collaborative community safety plans within a flexible framework designed by the Commission.

Staff from DCJS’ Law Enforcement Services Section provides step by step guidance and technical assistance to communities seeking initial certification or subsequent re-certification. The certification process is a rigorous one which includes specific, detailed documentation and verification of compliance for each of the elements.

A subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) reviews the final submitted applications and makes recommendations to the full CJSB.

Since its implementation, 14 city, county or town applications have been approved, the most recent being the City of Radford. The remaining Certified Crime Prevention Communities are; the cities of Bristol, Galax, Hampton, Lynchburg, Newport News, Portsmouth, Roanoke, and Virginia Beach; the counties of Fairfax, Hanover, Henrico, Prince William, and the Town of Herndon. The Chairman of the CJSB subcommittee has commended these communities for demonstrating their continued commitment to the safety of their citizens.

For more information about this program go to www.dcjs.virginia.gov/cple/cpc/ccpcp.cfm or contact Rick Arrington at (804) 371-0863. ■

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re-entry programs, and information sharing. These and many other issues confronting the criminal justice system make it clear that the criminal justice community carries a tremendous responsibility.

In the years to come, priorities will certainly change and new issues will capture the attention of the public and policy makers. The impetus for a change in focus may come from tragedies, perceived mismanagements, reports of program failures, or ethical mistakes. As public servants we will always be faced with these types of challenges; but we must never let them obscure the impact of crime on victims and their families, and our responsibility to continuously address incidents that threaten our communities’ safety.

As stated in the Department of Criminal Justice Service’s mission, we will provide

comprehensive planning and state-of-the-art technical and support services for the criminal justice system. Our primary focus is to improve and promote public safety in the Commonwealth. As a strategy to contribute to this mission, we have revived *DCJS Today*, our agency’s newsletter. We want *DCJS Today* to provide insights on contemporary criminal justice issues, advise constituent groups of funding opportunities, provide technical information and resources, and work to develop stronger information sharing across the criminal justice community.

During our work developing a criminal justice plan, we have consistently heard from practitioners, managers and administrators that information sharing is critical to an effective criminal justice system. We hope that this newsletter provides a

useful venue for sharing ideas, strategies and issues. We invite criminal justice services providers, researchers and evaluation specialists, and other criminal justice agencies to submit topics or articles for inclusion in our newsletter. Our agency will work to get this information out to others in a manner that supports constant criminal justice system improvement.

As criminal justice professionals we must always be ready to react, to adjust our priorities in response to emerging issues. But I believe we must also work proactively and use our knowledge, experience and vision to shape improvements in the criminal justice system and promote public safety. With your help and our collective commitment, I am confident we will be successful in 2008 and the years beyond.

Leonard G. Cook

The Third Annual Crisis Intervention Team Officer Awards Banquet Held in Radford

Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall was the featured speaker as the New River Valley Mental Health Association honored campus and local law enforcement officers at its awards banquet at Radford University.

This was the Association's third annual Crisis Intervention Team Officer Awards Banquet, in which officers from law enforcement agencies in the area are recognized for their commitment and contributions to the area's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT).

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model, developed by the Memphis Police Department in 1988, is a well-documented and highly successful "pre-booking" jail diversion program.

Its goals are to improve interactions between law enforcement and persons with mental illness; prevent the inappropriate restraint, incarceration, and stigmatization of persons with mental illness; reduce injury to officers, family members, and individuals in crisis; and link individuals with mental illness to appropriate treatment and resources in the community.

Since its inception in 1988, CIT has been widely replicated nationwide. To date, however, all successful replications of CIT have occurred in or around large metropolitan areas. The New River Valley CIT marks the first rural, multi-jurisdictional adaptation of the model anywhere in the United States.

At the core of the model is a team of highly trained officers who participate in the regular patrol functions of their agencies. Eleven law enforcement agencies participate in the New River Valley CIT, which was formed in 2002.

In his remarks to the banquet, Secretary Marshall recalled his experience as a State Trooper, "When I think back about my work as an officer, I can tell you CIT training would have beneficial to me."

The Secretary also noted the tragic outcome of the 2006 manhunt for William Morva and the shootings at Virginia Tech in 2007. On behalf of Governor Kaine, he thanked the Mental Health Association and the law enforcement agencies in the New River Valley CIT for their dedicated and professional service.

The Association's Bridge Builder Award was presented to four recipients: Sheriff Tommy Whitt of Montgomery County, Blacksburg Police Chief Kim Crannis, Chief Wendell Flinchum of the Virginia Tech Police Department, and Christiansburg Police Chief Mark Sisson.

The Bridge Builder Award was presented in recognition of their leadership in forging cooperative relationships among their agencies, as evidenced by the way they operated together in crisis situations such as the Morva Manhunt and the Tech Shootings.

The Officer of the Year Award went to Detective Sergeant Sam Shumate of the Radford University Police Department. Sergeant Shumate serves as a CIT staff instructor and was instrumental in enhancing the CIT program by developing an instructional unit for CIT officers in training on post-traumatic stress disorder.



The Honorable John Marshall, Virginia's Secretary of Public Safety is introduced by Victoria Cochran, CIT Program Facilitator.

The award for the CIT Intervention of the Year went to Lt. Christopher "Kit" Cummings of the Blacksburg Police Department for his work as a team leader of the New River Valley Critical Incident Stress Management Team. Lt. Cummings coordinated peer support for officers responding to critical incidents.

Additionally, Dana Lebowitz Schultz, Program Specialist for the CIT received a Special Appreciation Award from Association President Harriett Dorsey. She was honored for her dedication and contributions to the CIT program. ■



Patrick Halpern, Acting Director of the Mental Health Association; 2006 CIT Officer of the Year, Corporal Dennis Lambert; and 2007 CIT Officer of the Year Sergeant Sam Shumate.



DCJS Announces the First Virginia Victim Assistance Academy

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services is pleased to announce the launching of the very first Virginia Victim Assistance Academy to be held July 27 through August 1, 2008. The Academy will provide a 45-hour comprehensive, academic, interdisciplinary and interactive training program for crime victim service providers, advocates, allied professionals and others who work with crime victims. The curriculum will provide a foundation of victims services and principles to enable participants to more effectively help crime victims regain control of their lives.

Virginia is one of 34 states developing or presenting State Victim Assistance Academies. The Academies are modeled after the National Victim Assistance Academy; however, they provide state-specific training in victim issues.

The Academy is being designed by a multi-disciplinary Steering and Advisory Committee which includes representatives from DCJS, as well as our university partners, the University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University. Other members on the committee include representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, the Virginia Network for Victims and Witnesses of Crime, the Department of Corrections, the Parole Board, the Attorney General's Office, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, local victim assistance programs, and crime victims.

Curriculum: The curriculum will include presentations on: History of the Crime Victims' Rights Movement; Scope of Crime and its Impact on Victims; Understanding Trauma; Domestic Violence; Sexual Assault; Homicide; Child Victimization and Working with Special Populations. Other topics include Crisis Intervention and Trauma Assessment; Bereavement and Grief; Compassion Fatigue and Self Care; Cultural and



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Spiritual Competency; the Criminal Justice System; Communication Skills with Victims; Legal Protection Options and Financial Remedies; Ethics in Victim Services and Collaboration for Victims' Rights and Services.

Who Should Attend: Victim services providers, allied professionals such as law enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, volunteers, sexual assault advocates, domestic violence advocates, victim/witness staff, and other victim service providers are strongly encouraged to apply to participate in the Academy. The curriculum is designed for those with three or fewer years of experience. Successful applicants will be required to attend all sessions of the Academy, and may also be required to complete some work prior to the Academy.

This intensive, but rewarding six-day academy will be held in Richmond, Virginia. Classes will start on Sunday, July 27, 2008 and will conclude early afternoon on Friday, August 1, 2008. There will also be several evening activities. Lodging will be provided on campus and participants are encouraged to stay on-site in university housing.

Costs: The cost to attend the Academy is \$500. On campus lodging and all meals are included.

Scholarships: A limited number of scholarships may be available. Students selected for the Academy will be given the opportunity to complete a scholar-

ship request, if needed. Scholarship requests will be reviewed after Academy student selection is completed.

Applications: The Academy is currently accepting applications from potential students and faculty members. Student and Faculty applications are available at www.dcjs.virginia.gov. The deadline for faculty applications is February 29, 2008 and the deadline for student applications is April 1, 2008.

Faculty selected for the Academy will be notified by April 1, 2008. Academy faculty members are strongly encouraged to attend a faculty orientation on May 19, 2008 in Richmond.

Those submitting successful student applications will be notified by May 30, 2008. A pre-Academy teleconference for students will be held in June 2008.

Credit: DCJS in-service credit, including legal subject matter credit, is being requested and should be available for law enforcement officers. CLE Credit may be available. Successful completion of the Academy will make participants eligible for the Provisional Advocate Credentialing through the National Advocate Credentialing Program.

Questions:

- Patricia Foster at Patricia.Foster@dcjs.virginia.gov or (804) 371-8634
- Judy Gundy at Judy.Gundy@dcjs.virginia.gov or (804) 786-5367
- Mandie Patterson at Mandie.Patterson@dcjs.virginia.gov or (804) 786-3923

Space is limited to thirty participants. Apply, or encourage others to apply, and be a part of a select group attending Virginia's first Victim Assistance Academy! ■

Note: This project is supported by Grant No. 2006-VF-GX-K026, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, and U.S. Department of Justice.



The Law Enforcement Command Advisory Group

During grant development discussions last year, senior local law enforcement officials, recognizing a need to expand their perspective of regional and statewide preparedness gaps, asked the assistance of the Department's Office of Homeland Security (OHS) in organizing such an endeavor. In coordination with the Virginia Sheriffs' Association and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, the OHS created the Law Enforcement Command Advisory Group (LCAG) to enhance the capability of the law enforcement community to speak the same message with its many voices without supplanting the efforts of any other law enforcement organization.

The LCAG is currently comprised of thirty-six chiefs of police and sheriffs from

across the Commonwealth as well as the Executive Directors of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. Our Department's Homeland Security Coordinator, Sam Hoffman, serves as a staff resource to the group. This framework of members makes it possible to focus a single issue across a broad audience including the General Assembly, the Governor's Cabinet, and the Secure Commonwealth Panel.

To focus resource discussions, the LCAG developed its own homeland security strategy that includes long-term objectives and a corresponding set of high priority actions for each objective. The Governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness recently approved those objectives for incorporation in the Commonwealth's revised homeland security strategy.

Significant among the LCAG's accomplishments is the successful proposal to the Secretary of Public Safety and the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness to recognize the critical need for enhancing terrorism prevention capabilities. As a result of the LCAG's "one message, many voices" philosophy, local government's share of the terrorism prevention grant increased from 17% in 2006 to 100% in 2007. The LCAG is currently reviewing funding priorities for the next round of Department of Homeland Security grants and considering expanding its membership to selected state agencies and private industry. ■

2007 Agency Highlights

As part of the Department of Criminal Justice's commitment to provide "comprehensive planning and state-of-the-art technical support services for the criminal justice system" the agency worked cooperatively with other criminal justice system entities on special initiatives during 2007. The following are several highlights:

- Initiated a new **criminal justice system planning process**. (See article on page 1)
- Began the **first comprehensive prisoner re-entry research** to identify strategies that work in reducing recidivism. The interim report, *Report Document No. 210: Virginia Prisoner Re-entry Evaluation Programs*, [http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD2102007/\\$file/RD210.pdf](http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD2102007/$file/RD210.pdf), was submitted on October 1, 2007, and has established a research format and

methodology for improving prisoner re-entry programming, thereby contributing to reductions in recidivism and enhanced public safety.

- **Lead the development of model policies that support professionalism in the law enforcement community.** An example of this work involved the development of a Line-of-Duty Death Policy for law enforcement agencies. This project included collaboration with the Virginia State Police, as well as research through a number of professional organizations.
- **Amended entry-level jail training rules** based upon a complete job task analysis of the position which more accurately reflects the duties of the position.
- **Amended instructor certification rules** and provided more options for potential instructors to meet the apprenticeship requirements, by provid-

ing more flexibility to the certified academies to establish re-certification requirements for instructors, and broadened the radar instructor category to speed measurement instructors to allow for certification to teach radar, VASCAR, and Lidar.

- Created and presented a **new homeland security training program** called Securing the Faith Based Community. Program consists of instructing law enforcement personnel and religious leaders in principles of conducting threat assessments and implementing defensive measures and target hardening for their facilities.
- Held the 2nd successful **Blueprints for Change Conference** in coordination with the Criminal Justice Service Board Meeting, May 9-10 in Staunton, Virginia. ■



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